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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Respect for law will disappear

One outstanding result of this sham settlement will be that it will legalize Microsoft's illegal behavior, which will lead common citizens to conclude that the law is merely an inconvenience that can be ignored, if not circumvented.

Even after the conviction was upheld in circuit court, the DOJ seems bent on grasping defeat from the jaws of victory by agreeing to this sham settlement.

Will Microsoft be punished for their previous crimes or the crimes cited in this conviction? NO!

No punishment is proposed. Microsoft gets to keep their ill gotten gain, while lesser criminals pay grievously in fines, penalties and prison time. This is injustice defined! Apparently wealth now puts one above the law. All it takes is enough cash to buy high powered attorneys and grease politicians.

Will Microsoft be restrained from continuing their illegal behavior? NO!

In fact, this sham settlement LEGITIMIZES Microsoft's anti-competitive behavior toward the only segment of the software market that has been even slightly successful competing against it, the Open Source segment. The sham settlement give Microsoft the right to determine, by its own definitions, what is a business and what it not. No superior intelligence is required to realize what Microsoft will do with that power. Why would the DOJ agree to such a stipulation? The whole purpose of the litigation was to break the monopolistic business practices and level the playing field for ALL players. Now the DOJ is helping Microsoft to jack up Microsoft's end of the field to unreachable heights, ensuring their illegal dominance. It is as if the Feds began brewing beer to GIVE to Al Capone's speak easyies, and destroy his competition, as punishment for Capone's illegal manufacture and distribution of alcohol. Or, as if the Feds not only gave the Mafia a free pass on extortion, racketeering, prostitution, and the numbers, but gave a blind eye and tacit approval to 'hits' on their competition.

Does the settlement contain any power of restraint or enforcement? NO!

Microsoft gets to pick one monitor and have a say in the second. That effectively splits the monitors decision process and renders them powerless to make critical support decisions. How effective

would the war in Afghanistan be if half of President's War Council were Taliban? The 'teeth' merely extends the toothless settlement two more years. Two more years of nothing is still nothing. This one condition alone proves that the settlement is a 'FIX', as sham.

The net result of the phoney settlement is that the American Citizens will no longer support the law in jury rooms across the country. Why should they convict lesser criminals when the bigger ones walk free with DOJ HELP? They will see the DOJ not as helpers of the helpless, but as aiding and abetting lawlessness. This settlement, if upheld, will prove to the American people that the DOJ is really DOJ Inc. and it reduce the American legal system to the status of 3rd world kangaroo courts run by and for corporations and politicians for their own greedy purposes. Recent political payoffs, such as the DMCA, and court decisions which make Microsoft's EULA a one-way document (they can sue the consumer, but the consumer can sue them for breach of contract) have already disgraced the judicial branch.

The forced resolution toward this sham settlement to alleviate the grief and economic woes of the nation is laughable. Microsoft has already pillaged our economy for billions and billions of profits made possible only by illegal monopolistic behavior. This settlement will merely put the country at the mercy of even more outrageous economic extortions. Even now Microsoft is proposing unbelievable licensing fee structures that would be impossible if the consumer had access to an alternate choice. But, since the OEM agreements with Microsoft, along with their secret side agreements, prevents the OEMs from even putting alternate operating system on their PCs in dual boot mode, or even putting icons to other software on their Windows desktops, other browsers, operating systems and software have no easy access to public markets.

So, how does it feel to be a pawn? Maybe Watts will give you and idea of what happens to a country when a citizenry loses respect for the law because it offers no redress for grievances. Or even worse, Argentina. The most favorable reason for supporting this agreement would be if one held stocks, options and retirement funds mainly in Microsoft. But then, this would be a conflict of interest wouldn't it?

For your even suggesting such a despicable settlement I am not so respectfully,
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